

# "F I WERE A GRL."

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

If I were a girl again, I would choose among the several avenues open to me, and walk in one of them with a sure and firm footing. The great trouble is that so many girls take so long to decide what they will do, what they will learn and what they will be, that presently a door of opportunity is shut in their faces, and the golden time is passed.

Many girls write to me in a vague, indefinite, purposeless spirit, seeking advice, yet apparently without the faintest self-knowledge. If I were a girl I would first of all take stock of myself. I would be candid and brave. I would scorn cowardice. I would not try to endow myself with a lot of imaginary qualities not one of which I possessed, or with some glittering talents that had never been given to me. I would frankly avail myself of the ability or aptitude to which God and nature had given me a claim.

For example, if the genius lay in the direction of making puddings and not in that of painting pictures, I would acknowledge the bent and not disregard, as beneath notice, the homely art of good cooking. I would be proud that I might excel in the desirable accomplishment of preparing decent food for decent people. I would not forget to thank God for clever fingers and a quick brain, although my gift may be for sweeping and dusting, and not for writing poetry and romances.

A year ago a beautiful girl told me that she had taken stock of her attainments and possibilities, and had concluded that her duty lay plainly in the lines of home-making. She belonged in a very large family connection, and her father's house was headquarters for the clan.

"People are coming and going constantly," she said, "aunts, cousins, old acquaintances and classmates of my brothers. I have no brilliant gifts, but I can keep house nicely, set my mother free from care, and make everyone happy and pleased with what is going on."

That girl was wise, and she need not have underrated the beautiful work she took in hand. A home, a mother, a favorite in the family, a nurse in illness, a good manager of servants, is to be an all-round woman indeed. If I were a girl again that is what I'd like to be.

Make the most of a little.

Although I might never sing like Pat-

ti or play like Paderewski, if I were a girl I would not scorn the little gift of song or music that was mine. A girl whose voice is sweet and well trained, though its compass be small, may give great satisfaction to a home audience. Her father may find much more enjoyment in listening to her simple airs than he would an artistic performance which was to him as the song of the skylark to the strain of the tiny wren. Do what you can, and coaxing and pleading and urging, and you will be appreciated.

Music is the most jealous and exacting of arts. I have noticed that the finest performers are seldom ready to play when requested. Either they are out of practice, or they have not their notes, or they have some other excuse that compels them to refuse, unless they have spent days in preparation. But I know a gentleman nearly 80 years old who learned the piano when he was in America and found we were musically crude and ignorant and easily satisfied. This lady still plays very sweetly in her old-fashioned way, and she never has to be asked twice. As a girl she was taught that it was her bounden duty to be entertaining if she could, her musical ability was at the service of her friends, and it is so still. If I were a girl I would not be undone by an old woman of fourscore. But our standards may hamper us. Should we let them?

I would learn how to play accompaniments and I would be able, when there was occasion, to play for boys and girls who wanted to dance. I have seen a charming girl seat herself at the piano, in a girls' college, and directly all the beautiful young creatures were dancing like fairies to the music she gave them. In a country house, a boarding house in the mountains, a party of summer visitors has been made happy evening after evening by a girl whose playing was crisp, precise, and in good time, though not otherwise extraordinary. She was always willing to play when people asked her, and the innocent pastime went on merrily, for she was unselfish and accommodating.

The trouble with many girls is that they are far from self-conscious. If they cannot do things well, they shrink from criticism and will not do them at all. Diffidence and reserve go hand in hand, and prevent many girls from being at their best, or appearing as well as they might, while the pleasure they could scatter broadcast.

is wholly lost in a world that needs pleasure very badly. Honey and bloom and fun and recreation, sweetness, love, grace of manner, tactful politeness, should not be scorned by our girls.

When Polly played for dancing, her slender fingers flew. Across the flashing ivory keys as if they were birds. The music bubbled under the music of her hand. As if the merry notes were mad to join the festive band.

When Polly struck the measure of two-step or of waltz.

The oldest there grew young again and laughed at Time's assaults. While lovely sweet and twenty, and happy sweet sixteen.

Went floating light as thistle-down the merry staves between.

When Polly played the lancers, you should have seen us bow. And we were dancing now, and in. With Polly playing bravely, and all the old set there.

Till who'd believe 'twas midnight by the clock upon the stair?

Then Polly played as easily as the young—

And, lad and lass, we danced again the blithe Virginia reel.

If could speak his arrows, be sure his aim was true.

When Polly played for dancing, and the hours fairly flew.

If I were a girl again I would take more pains than most girls do in writing letters. I would cultivate a legible hand that anybody could read, without having to decipher as if it were a Chinese puzzle. I would not write three

pages of prolix explanation before I arrived at the real reason for my letter. I would learn how to say things clearly and agreeably, and when I had finished I would stop. I would not forget old family friends, nor keep my mother weeping for a letter, if I were away from home.

There are many more things I might do were I again a girl, but these few suggestions will do for this day. Another time I may give a few more hints to girls who are good enough to listen to me. As my old teacher in penmanship used to say:

"Command you may, your mind from play, long enough to see what wishes lie before you, and how very very much you who are in the hour of radiant girlhood may make of your lives."

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## I GO ANYWHERE

To photograph anything. Harry Shipley, Commercial Photographer, 151 So. Main. Phone 2825 K.

## Far Sounds.

(Philadelphia Press.)

"The walls seem to be rather thin," remarked Goodley, calling upon Marryat in his new house.

"They are rather thin," Marryat admitted.

"Yes, because I'm sure I just heard some fellow in the next house snoring."

"Oh! that's a fellow four doors below here."

## INDOOR PICNIC LUNCHEON

CORNELIA C. BEDFORD.

IN THIS section of the country it is still too early to even dream of picnics, but the hostess who wants to entertain a few friends during Easter week can do so in rather novel fashion and with the least possible amount of service if she will send out invitations for an indoor Easter picnic luncheon.

The size of the dining room—the number it can accommodate with comfort—must be the gauge for the number of invitations issued. Possibly eighteen can be seated here and there, but for most houses twelve will be a better number.

Having settled this question, that of transforming the dining room must next be considered. For the hostess who lives in the country it will be comparatively easy matter. Woods and fields will furnish abundance of material. In some localities the glossy branches of the bay laurel are available; such growths as will keep fresh for a day or two should be chosen first, but branches of young maple leaves, evergreens in general or ropes of the ground pine which abound in the localities will be equally appropriate.

The city hostess will find it best to rent a number of small flowering evergreens from her florist and surround them with such other cut green material as he is able to furnish at a reasonable price. The beautiful crepe paper now so generally on sale, will add much to the attractiveness of the decorations. Buy rolls of it in a solid green color, cut in long strips and use it as you would ribbon, making large bows with streamers.

Parasols hung on the walls connecting these graceful paper festoons. Drape the mantel, if there is one, with the crepe either figured or plain of the same shade—then bank it with greens or mosses and wild flowers. Tablecloths and napkins to match may be had in paper or the same plain green may be used, cutting it in lengths and overlapping them on the table.

The table itself is not to be set in the usual manner. It should be drawn out to nearly or all of its full length, spread with cloth or the crepe paper, and used as a sideboard setting on it plates and provisions on mounds as one would do on a dish.

A tablecloth, select a thick neatly breast of veal. Remove gristle, bones and tendons. Cook the trimmings with water, vegetables and seasoning so as to have a clear stock. When ready to use, mix well together a pound of sausage meat (or chopped veal and ham), with a half pound of soft bread crumbs and parsley, thyme, salt, pepper, lemon juice and a pinch of nutmeg to season. Cut in thin strips some larding pork and lean veal, and lean ham, and sprinkle with a little onion juice. Spread the meat out flat. Cover with a half inch layer of the prepared sausage mixture; add a layer of the cut strips of meat arranged alternately; between them tuck in a few blanched pistachio nuts (these are not a necessity, but add to the finished appearance); another layer of the forcemeat, then the remainder of the meat strips. Roll up tightly and sew or tie firmly. Roll in a strip of muslin and tie again. Put in a saucepan, cover with stock and water in equal parts and simmer for four hours, skimming carefully. Lift from the fire, leaving it in the stock until almost cold. Transfer it to a dish, cover with a weight and leave over night. Remove cloth and strings, brush all over with the veal jelly colored with caraway. Cut in thin slices and garnish with the diced jelly.

The menu itself should consist of such articles as would be served at a regulation picnic—sandwiches, cold

meats, pickles or other relishes, salads, cakes and coffee or some other not drink. The dishes of cold meat and salad can be prettily garnished. Each plate of sandwiches may be designated as to kind by a tiny flag or some ornamental paper. A hot soup might be provided, serving it in large coffee cups. The following recipe will prove especially suitable for such a menu:

Sandwich Fillings, 1—Shake a dozen large oysters in a saucepan over the fire until ruffled. Drain, and when cold put through the chopper, then pound to paste. Add a dozen olives, stoned and pounded, two tablespoonfuls of fine cracker dust, a high season of salt, pepper, celery salt and catsup and six tablespoonfuls of thick mayonnaise. 2—Shave bacon very thin, spread on a rack in a pan and broil in a hot oven, under the broiler. When done, chop and mix with a rich soft butter, salt, pepper, and a dash of onion juice. 3—Chop and pound solid, lean, juicy corned beef to a paste, add chopped gherkins to make slightly acid, and one-fourth as much mayonnaise. 4—Cold roast lamb chopped fine, softened with thick cream and seasoned with salt, pepper and a dash of onion juice. 5—Cold English Meat Pie—Take thin slices of raw veal cutlet and one-half as much by weight of lean boiled ham. Cut veal in strips half an inch wide and two inches long. Slice the ham thinly, then cut in narrow strips. Make a forcemeat paste (one-fourth in amount) of pounded hard boiled egg, sausage (or veal seasoned with herbs), a few soft bread crumbs and raw egg to bind; make up in little balls. In a deep dish pack alternate layers of veal, ham and sliced hard boiled egg with balls of forcemeat in the crevices and plenty of seasoning. Pour over several cupfuls of clear veal gravy, which will stiffen to a firm jelly when cold. Cover with a rich cream sauce, and bake in a moderate oven for an hour and a half. Slice cold in the dish.

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## A FANCY BUTTER



IT MAKES YOU EAT MORE BREAD

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## APHIS ARCHITECTURE.

BY M. L. CHENEY.



The aphids or plant lice are associated in most of our minds with those little pests who multiply and replenish upon the leaves and stalks of our pet plants and trees, and we have given them but little attention from the standpoint of individuals who have their part and place in the universe. Nevertheless, they possess exceedingly interesting life histories, and their completed cycles show metamorphoses and arrangements that are little short of marvelous, and it is small wonder that the ancients believed that they were generated spontaneously.

It is quite natural for the young student along ontological lines to select the most conspicuous specimens to begin work upon, and I know of none of the aphididae (the order to which all plant lice belong) that can be more easily and more interestingly studied than the plant lice, known to scientists as Pemphigus, which selects the broad, coarse grained leaves of the familiar slippery elm as the scene of its depredations. In late spring there may be found upon these luxuriant leaves some wee folds that are the result of a puncture from the sharp beak of a plant louse. The plant at once uses every effort to heal the wound on the leaf surface, and throws out what is called a blastem, which resembles the inflamed swelling that rises around a cut in the flesh when the healing process is begun. Now the leaf, with this end in view, surrounds the wound, but the stem-mother, as the spring aphid is called, invisibly secretes herself within the cut while the walls of the blastem gradually rise about her. While she continues to lace the walls, the plant necessarily remains abnormally active in an endeavor to restore the depleted tissues, and the result is the tent-like protuberance.

Now this stem mother, produced from an egg deposited the previous autumn on the bole of some convenient tree, receives her nourishment from the inner leaf cells of her shelter, and within a week or so begins to give forth numerous amber-colored females who develop rapidly, and these in turn produce more females parthenogenetically, thus comes a generation of perfect winged insects, i. e., true males and females. The eggs of this late brood are deposited on their host tree, and in the spring the stem mothers are hatched and the completed cycle is repeated.

Now the witch hazel is forced to act as host plant to two different species of gall-building aphids, the homaphis hamamelidis, which erects a rather inconspicuous protuberance in the form of a conical tube on the upper surface of the leaf, and the homaphis spirogyna, which cleverly converts to its own use the undeveloped seed capsules. This species might well be called the plagiarist among plant lice, for they have so ingeniously distorted the plant's product and adapted it for private use. It is also representative of the mimetic ability resorted to by many insects as a protective device. These habitations contain small colonies which eventually leave their safe shelter and migrate to the birch, which is said to be their alternate host plant.

On the cottonwood (populus monilifera) you will sometimes find a funny, green, corrugated affair that is the phylloxera vagabundus, and early in the season it contains but a single female architect, who multiplies after the fashion of all aphids. Her vast progeny eventually results in hosts of black-headed flies by the time the gall has reached mature growth. This species belongs to the group of plant lice which are known as stem or terminal galls found only on twigs and limbs, but there is another aphid, pemphigus populiculus, which selects the same tree for the scene of its depredations, but creates an entirely different structure. The petiole of the leaf is punctured, thereby causing a swelling about the base of a petiole, with a slit along the edges which is used as the exit. It is a roomy abode and shelters the conventional large and intelligent family, and, as its full length is frequently tinted with pink, it is a very dainty and attractive affair. The life history of the inmates, except in their selection of a food plant, is similar to that of the other gall aphids.

On the hickory may be found another aphid, exoecia, also protective in its resemblance to immature fruit, and is the work of a louse gall scientifically known as phylloxera caryocaulis. There seems to be but little variation among individuals of the gall-building aphids. The eyes in the winged form are very prominent, while the apterous forms (those earlier generations enclosed in the gall) have no eyes at all. But in compensation they are furnished with small but determined sucking apparatuses with which they pierce the cell walls, and so obtain the juices which nourish them. When these are not in use they fold beneath the body. Sometimes the winged brood is devoid of mouth parts, their entire life being given up to the matter of reproduction.

In almost all gall-creating aphids the honey tubes, which are a marked characteristic of the common plant lice, are wanting or obsolete. This suggests reflection for the evolutionist. Is the honey tube an economic development of the unprotected aphid who has evolved this method of supplying the ant with sweet nectar so as to induce him to become a caretaker to a species that have not as yet aspired to architectural construction? Or is it the other hand, was it a desire for independence which incited the ancestors of the gall species to break away from conventional lines or bondage and invest them with a creative ability that would render them self-protective? Of course the loss of a single stem mother at the beginning of the season would mean depopulation that would amount to millions in the course of the season, for, according to Huxley, the uninterrupted breeding of ten generations of plant lice from a single ancestor would produce a mass or organic matter that would be equivalent to the bulk of 500,000,000 of human beings. To avert such an economic disaster, all insect intelligence has been brought to bear in the matter of stem mother protection.

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Black Silk Sale.



Black Silk Sale.

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